

4.—PRIVILEGES CONCEDED TO VILLAGERS.

42. In the Thána, Násik, Ahmednagar, Poona, Sátára, Sholápur, and Surat divisions no change has been made during the year in nature and extent of privileges previously conceded in "Reserved" and "Protected Forests."

43. In the Khándesh Collectorate the privileges sanctioned by Government Resolution No. 1540, dated 25th February 1886, have been modified, and the following Code has been sanctioned :—

CODE OF RULES

REGARDING THE EXERCISE OF PRIVILEGES IN THE FORESTS OF THE NORTH TÁPTI TÁLUKA'S OF THE KHA'NDESH COLLECTORATE.

I.—The North Tápti tálukás include—

1. Taloda,
 2. Sháháda,
 3. Chopda,
 4. Shirpur,
 5. Sávda (with the Yával and Ráver Petás),
 6. Pimpalner (with Navápur and Nizámpur),
 7. Nandurbár,
- } By special order.

II.—A forest village is a village which has contributed land to forest.

III.—An inhabitant of a forest village is a person resident in a forest village.

IV.—The inhabitants of other than forest villages have no forest privileges.

Exception.—Privilege No. VIII (f) may be exercised by all Bhils and other wild tribes resident in the táluca in which the forest block is situated.

V.—The privileges may be exercised by the inhabitants of a forest village throughout the unclosed portions of the block to which their village has contributed, but not in other blocks.

Exception.—See note below, No. VII (b).

VI.—Goats will not be permitted to graze in the forests without the express permission of the Conservator of Forests.

VII.—The inhabitants of forest villages may, free of charge in the unclosed portions of the forest lands,—

(a) graze all cattle *bond fide* their own property;

Exception.—This privilege does not extend to professional graziers.

(b) cut and remove grass, including barn, for their own use, sale or barter;

Note.—This privilege may also be exercised in such portion of the closed area as can, in the opinion of the Divisional Forest Officer, be safely opened for grass cutting only.

(c) collect dead-wood, except teak, tivas and khair, for fuel for domestic use, but not for sale or barter;

(d) take or quarry khári-earth, stone and similar material for their own use in places assigned by the forest officers;

(e) take teak leaves for their own use;

(f) cut thorns and brushwood for their own use with the previous permission of the Divisional Forest Officer, at the places and of the kinds pointed out by the Divisional Forest Officer.

VIII.—Bhils and other wild tribes are granted the following additional privileges :—

(a) They may collect dead-wood of all kinds, except teak, tivas, and khair, free of charge for private use.

(b) They may collect for sale or barter dead-wood of any but the three reserved kinds, on payment of the same fees as have hitherto been levied, namely :—

Rs. 2 per cart-load ; annas 2 per head-load.

1 teak, 2 blackwood, 3 ain, 4 chinch, 5 bábul, 6 khair, 7 tivas, 8 hirda, 9 dhávda, 10 nim, 11 awal, 12 mango, 13 chároli, 14 mowra, 15 jambul, 16 anjan.

free of charge for domestic use.

(c) They may cut live-wood of any but the 16 reserved kinds

(d) They may cut live-wood of any but the 16 reserved kinds for sale or barter on payment of the following fees :—

			Rs.	a.	p.
Each cart-load	...	...	1	0	0
Each head-load	...	...	0	1	0
Large bámbus, per 100	...	...	2	0	0
Small do. do.	...	...	1	0	0
Head-load of bámbus	...	...	0	2	0

(e) They may cut free of charge—

- (1) bambus for private use or for their own manufactures;
- (2) in the Akráni Pargana "Ain" and "Dhávda" for private use under the supervision of the forest officers.

(f) They may collect honey, wax, gum, mowra (flowers and fruits) and other minor produce, except hirdas, free of charge for private use, or for sale or barter.

IX.—The Collector may suspend, until further orders, the exercise of any privilege on his being satisfied that it is being abused, and shall then obtain the orders of Government regarding the term of the suspension or the permanent withdrawal of the privilege abused.

X.—Under Section 78 of the Forest Act all persons enjoying privileges in forests are bound—

- (a) to give information respecting the commission of any forest offence;
- (b) to assist Government officers in extinguishing forest fires and in preventing theft, mischief and other forest offences, and in discovering and arresting offenders.

CODE OF PRIVILEGE RULES.

FOR SOUTH TÁPTI TÁLUKÁS AS SANCTIONED BY GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION
No. 7592, DATED 19TH SEPTEMBER 1885.

I.—The South Tápti tálukás are :—

Bhusával including Edalabad Peta.

Jámner.

Jalgaon.

Erandol.

Amalner with Párola Peta.

Páchora with Bhadgaon Peta.

Chálisgaon.

Dhulia.

Sindkheda.

II.—A forest village is a village that has contributed land to forest.

III.—An inhabitant of a forest village is a person resident in a forest village.

IV.—The privileges allowed are permitted to inhabitants of forest villages only.

V.—No special privileges are permitted to Bhils and wild tribes.

VI.—Inhabitants of forest villages may free of charge—

- (a) cut grass, including baru, in the open compartments and in such portion of the closed area as can in the opinion of the Divisional Forest Officer be safely opened for grass-cutting only, the grass so cut being at their disposal for any purpose.

Government Resolution No. 7467
of the 15th September 1885.

Exception.—This privilege may not be exercised in those portions of forests which are "Mámul kurans," and in which the grass is annually sold by auction.

Note.—The grass cut by the Forest Department in the unopened part of the closed area is to be given free of charge to the villagers of any forest village of the block in which it has been cut if required by the Collector.

- (b) in the open compartments only, collect for their own use dead-wood branches—not trunks—of all trees except teak, khair, and tivas.
- (c) collect mowra, honey, wax, gum, and all jungle fruits, except hirdás, which belong to Government, for their own use or for sale.
- (d) take or quarry khari-earth, stone, and similar material in places assigned by the forest officers.
- (e) gather teak leaves from side branches of trees outside forest boundaries or felled in forest in the course of departmental felling operations.

VII.—The Collector may suspend until further orders the exercise of any of the foregoing privileges on his being satisfied that it is being abused, and shall then obtain the orders of Government regarding the term of suspension or the permanent withdrawal of the privilege abused.

VIII.—Wood required for ploughs or houses and firewood shall, subject to the capability of the forest to furnish such wood and to the working of the working-plan, be supplied by the Forest Department on application at rates to be fixed by the Forest Department with the approval of the Commissioner to inhabitants of forest villages from the block to which such villages contribute; or if the Forest Department is unable to meet the application from its own fellings, the applicant may, at the discretion of the Divisional Forest Officer under the orders of the Collector, be granted, on payment of fees at a scale to be fixed by the Forest Department with the sanction of the Commissioner, a permit to cut, under the supervision of the forest officers, specified quantities of specified trees in specified places for his own use only for the purpose named in the permit.

44. The Resolution of Government provides that the privileges are to be exercised only in the unclosed portions of the "Reserved Forests," and it directs that the definition of closed and unclosed portions of the forests should be made by the Revenue Authorities after consulting the Forest Officers. The exercise of privileges such as are conceded in the above Code will do no harm to the forests, if in the first place the area of closure or rather the areas to be opened to grazing and to cutting trees and exploiting wood are arranged with due regard to the productive capability of the forests. Cuttings of trees cannot go on promiscuously over a large portion of the forests at one time without doing serious injury to the powers of reproducing; the size of the portion of a forest to be open to the felling of timber in one year must be determined by the total forest area and the habits, conditions, and growing power of the trees in the circumstances which surround them. After the revolution has been settled then the size of the area to be open to the cutting of trees or "the coupe" of the year of a particular tract of forest can be ascertained and defined. The convenience of those to whom the exercise of privileges may be given cannot regulate entirely the location of "the coupe," and the number of people to exercise privileges cannot influence its dimensions beyond a given point, save at the deterioration of the forests. The unclosed portion of the forest, in the words of the Government Resolution, means the area open to grazing; this area and "the coupe" of the year cannot conform to each other, for it is not necessary, even were it politically possible to do so, to close against grazing such a large proportion of the forests, taking the North Tapti Reserves as the case in point, as is required for closure for the growth of trees and improvement of the forests. The consideration of the grass crop and of the well-being of the forests where the grass grows must together regulate the location and extent of the unclosed portion of the forest, and the number of cattle to be permitted to graze and the season for pasturage. It is for the science of forestry to arrive at and to make the definition of the closed portion of the forests against fellings of timber of different descriptions, and against grazing either entirely or partially.

45. In the Panch Mahals extensive privileges have been allowed to the people. In the Jhalod and Halol forests, where the forests are to be entirely "Protected Forests" to the exclusion of "Reserved Forest," the following privileges are allowed:—

- (a) Free grazing for all cattle, the *bonâ fide* property of cultivators, and not kept for purposes of trade.
- (b) Cutting, stacking, and removing grass free of charge.
- (c) Collecting and removing, free of charge, every description of minor forest produce, including mowra.
- (d) Cutting and removing thorns for fencing purposes free.
- (e) Taking free all dead leaves and the live leaves of the khakra (*Butea frondosa*).
- (f) Cutting and removing, free of charge, branches of the saleda required for marriage ceremonies.
- (g) Removing, free of charge, head-load of dead-wood of all sorts, including teak; and where whole trees or large branches have fallen, cutting them up for removal.

- (h) When reasonable requirements cannot be met from lands outside the reserves, of supplying themselves free of charge with timber of all but the 17 marginally noted trees for *bonâ-fide* domestic and agricultural consumption, the question as to the sufficiency of the supply outside the reserves to be decided in each village by the revenue officers, and free passes given for the timber required from the reserves.
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teak. 2. Blackwood. 3. Bhia. 4. Timru. 5. Rohan. 6. Ryan. 7. Mokho. 8. Khair. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Bâbul. 10. Dhâvda. 11. Sadra. 12. Mowra. 13. Mango. 14. Tamarind. 15. Nim. 16. Beheda. 17. Châroli. |
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In the Godhra Taluka forests, Government in Resolution No. 1318, of the 2nd March 1887, have sanctioned the undermentioned privileges:—

"Inhabitants of all forest villages to cut grass for their own use free of charge in all Reserved Forests, except in the portions of 11 forests, the grass of which is annually sold by the Forest Department for cutting. They may collect leaves of all kinds, cowdung, wild fruits of all kinds, except hirda and mowra, wax, honey, lac, and gum. They may collect head-loads of fallen dead-wood of all kinds for their own *bond-fide* use, but not for sale. They may take cart-loads of such wood for their own *bond-fide* use on payment of very moderate fees, which should be settled by the Collector. Passes for such loads should be issued by round guards as well as by rangers. They may have free grazing for all their own cattle."

46. A privilege of cutting all but a few reserved kinds of trees all over the forests must necessarily lead to the creation of extensive blanks in such portions of forests where none or very few of the reserved kinds of trees may be represented.

47. The expenditure incurred upon the creation and constitution of forests in the Northern Circle during the year has amounted to Rs. 1,36,767-2-0, distributed thus :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Salaries and travelling allowances of Forest Settlement Officers not charged against the Forest Department	87,569	4	8
(2) Salaries and travelling allowances of establishments employed under the Forest Settlement Officers and charged in the forest accounts and the contingent expenditure of the latter	25,398	2	5
(3) Demarcation of forest boundaries upon the ground by the construction of special forest boundary-marks.	6,713	10	0
(4) Compensation for land and rights	17,086	0	11
Total	1,36,767	2	0

CHAPTER II.

SURVEYS AND WORKING PLANS.

(A)—SURVEYS.

48. The survey of the Thána forests upon the scale of 8 inches to the mile was commenced by a Topographical Survey Party of the Government of India working under the direction of Colonel A. Pullán, Deputy Superintendent in charge No. 17 Party Gujarát Survey, with Mr. J. Newland as his Assistant, who conducted the work in the Thána forests. A commencement was made in that portion of the Collectorate where the largest available topographical survey maps are on the scale of 2 inches to 1 mile. The scale of 8 inches for the Thána forests was selected after careful consideration of the size and description of forest maps necessary in the Thána Collectorate, where complicated questions of local requirements in the produce of forests affect the management of the State properties; there are over 1,300 forest villages in the district, the greater portion of the inhabitants of these and also of all the other villages on the sea-board and elsewhere come to the forests for the satisfaction of their wants in raw material, in firewood, timber, grazing, grass, &c., on payment or free, and there is a considerable population looking to the forests for subsistence in cutting, collecting and carrying timber and other forest produce. Consequently, as the State forests cover the greater portions of nearly all the hill ranges which ramify in all directions, forming an apparently confused but very consistent tracery of ridges and watersheds over the Konkan, and giving a constant succession of steep lofty hills and narrow valleys, the presence of a large number of "coupes," at not very irregular distances, over the whole country is essential to the convenience of villagers, as well as advantageous to forest conservancy. Many of these "coupes" must perforce be of small area, and maps of such a scale as will show correctly the physical configuration of the country over spaces of a few acres only are wanted. Really useful forest maps should be upon a scale large enough